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P 031402Z JUN 09  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2856  
INFO RUMISTA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 000644

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL MARR DR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DOD ASSETS FOR DOMINICAN HELICOPTER RECOVERY

¶1. This is an action request. The Charge d'Affaires requests that the Department seek the assistance of the Department of Defense and U.S. Military Forces to provide U.S. Helicopter assets to recover a downed Dominican Air Force Huey Helicopter in response to a request received from the Dominican Air Force Chief of Staff, Major General Carlos Altuna.

¶2. On 29 May 09, the Dominican Air Force sustained an in-flight mechanical malfunction that resulted in the emergency landing of a Dominican Huey Helicopter. The aircraft is currently located in a remote area of the island unreachable by ground. Luckily, no injuries were sustained. The aircraft is substantially damaged and inoperable.

¶3. DOD currently has U.S. Helicopter assets in the Dominican Republic conducting the humanitarian exercise "Beyond the Horizons." The U.S. Helicopters in support of the exercise are capable of recovering the aircraft with minimal to no impact to their on-going exercise.

¶4. Post will coordinate with the GODR to facilitate this recovery operation. This request is based on the policy objectives of maintaining pro-U.S. constituencies in the Caribbean to foster USG objectives, including the promotion of democracy, improving security (including counter-narcotics and anti-terrorism goals), and economic development and trade promotion.

¶5. Commercial and contract lift support is unavailable or insufficient.

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